

# Senior Leadership Conference 2000



## Charting Our Course into the 21st Century

Volume 4, No. 6

August-September 2000

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**Special insert: Guidance from the Chief of Chaplains**

# *The Faces of SLC 2000*



Vol. 4, No. 6

The Navy Chaplain is published bimonthly for the Chief of Chaplains by the Chaplain Resource Branch, 9591 Maryland Avenue, Norfolk, VA 23511-2993. The purpose of The Navy Chaplain is to enhance ministry by providing timely information to Active Duty, Reserve and Retired chaplains, Active and Reserve Religious Program Specialists, and Chaplain Candidate Program Officers. Submissions to The Navy Chaplain must arrive within 45 days of the next publication to be considered for use and should be on 3 1/2 " diskette. Pictures to accompany the articles are strongly encouraged.

The Navy Chaplain  
A Publication of the Chief of Chaplains  
United States Navy  
Editor: LCDR Walt East, CHC, USN



August-September 2000



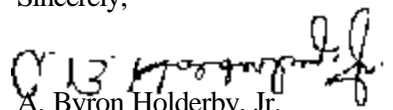
August 19, 2000

To the Men and Women  
of the Chaplain Corps and RP Rating

For the past three years I have been privileged to be your Chief of Chaplains and program sponsor for the Religious Program Specialist rating. As you know, I concluded my duties as Chief of Chaplains at 1000 on Friday, August 18<sup>th</sup>. At that time Chaplain Barry Black assumed the duties of Chief of Chaplains and Chaplain Lou Iasiello began his duties as Deputy Chief of Chaplains and Chaplain of the Marine Corps. These outstanding Chaplains are both fully qualified to lead the Chaplain/RP team to new heights of commitment in caring for Sailors, Marines, Coastguardsmen and their family members. I have extended to your new Chaplain Corps leadership team my most sincere blessings and best wishes for success in the years ahead.

During the past three years I have been impressed and gratified by your unwavering commitment of excellence. RPs, you are without a doubt the most professional group of men and women with whom I have ever been privileged to serve. Thank you for your unwavering support and willing service. Chaplains, your talent, enthusiasm and spirituality set a standard for ministry that is breathtaking. You have earned the trust of Sea Services men and women, which is indeed a high honor. Chaplains and RPs, I feel a special bond with you that is best expressed by the term "shipmates," shipmates we have truly been. Barbara joins me in wishing you continued blessings in both your professional and private lives. We will remember you always.

Sincerely,

  
A. Byron Holderby, Jr.  
Rear Admiral, CHC, USN (Ret)

## *This is God's Corps & Our Watch*

*Reflections on the Chaplain Corps Senior Leadership Conference*  
BY CAPT DOUGLAS J. OLAUSON, CHC, USN



For the first time, the Navy Chaplain Corps Senior Leadership Conference in March enabled all senior leaders of the chaplain and Religious Program Specialist team to learn, pray, discern God's will and share our concerns. I was stirred deeply by the devotionals, discussions, presentations, and our concern for the Corps. This was the most inspiring conference I have attended in my twenty-one years in the Chaplain Corps. It affirmed my commitment to serve, my ordination before God, my obligation as a moral/ethical advisor, my responsibility as team leader and follower, and my absolute need to discern God's will.

RADM Byron Holderby, the Chief of Chaplains, called out loud and clear: *This is God's Corps*. He reminded us that we are called to serve God and provide ministry to His children in the Sea Services. We are to campaign for those we serve, not for ourselves. Striking a chord in my heart, he pointed out the most obvious truth, "God is in charge of this Corps. *This is God's Corps*." As a Corps, our strength springs from our faith in God, the openness to do God's will, and the humility to offer ourselves to be shaped by God individually and collectively.

We have two main issues to deal within the chaplain/RP team. The first is the pain and needs of the people we are called to serve at large. The second is the pain within the chaplain/RP team itself. While the total Sea Service community must be our primary focus as chaplains and RPs, we cannot ignore the wounds within and expect to meet our full potential as God's servants.

RADM Barry Black, the Deputy Chief of Chaplain, called us to focus on our ministry instead of ourselves. He said, "We need men and women of God to speak for those without a voice. We must help people experience Divine catharsis. We must be people-centric, not chaplain-centric." We must break free from any illusions or delusions of power in the Chaplain Corps. The only power we should exercise is the power of spiritual influence, propelled by the trust others place in us as chaplains. We embarrass ourselves in front of the line community and those we are called to serve if our emphasis is on power or self-interest instead of ministry. We must each focus our efforts on being spiritual, ethical, and moral advisors — prophetic in nature to individuals and commands.

The intrinsic problems, real and perceived, in the Corps were not ignored. CDR Frank Holley briefed The Equal Opportunity Chaplain Corps Survey conducted by the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI). This survey identified perceptions within our Corps. One of these is perceived discrimination, existing in different forms: (1) Senior to Junior; (2) Faith Group; (3) Gender; (4) The Systems (Navy, USMC,

Chaplain Corps); and (5) Race. Sixty-one percent, or nearly two-thirds of Navy Chaplains reported some form of discrimination and questioned the ability of the Navy or Chaplain Corps to make any real change.

I, too have experienced the pain of discrimination and know that many others have been down that same road. The feelings of alienation and doubt that discrimination brings are crushing and can lead to loss of productivity, questioning of faith, feelings of bitterness and, if unchecked, the eventual loss of valuable chaplain/RP assets. The time for *healing* is now. The time to remember our *callings* from God and end any form of discrimination in our hearts is now. We need to acknowledge the pain and heal the wounds. We need to remove the source at all levels and then move beyond the pain. We must all remember we are called into an institutional ministry. Now, courageously and even under occasional adverse conditions we must move on. At times, we must stay the course as wounded healers. Chaplain Black insisted that we should not be diverted from ministry. "This can be a cruel world. We as chaplains cannot be thin skinned. Let's stop worrying about...discrimination and get on with serving others."

Chaplain Black shared a wonderful little story to illustrate this point. "Two construction workers took a lunch break together. They opened their lunch sacks and one worker started immediately to complain, 'Not baloney sandwiches again! I've had baloney sandwiches for five straight days! I hate baloney sandwiches!' The other fellow asked, 'Why don't you talk to your wife and ask her to make something other than baloney sandwiches for your lunch?' The first worker then said, 'Oh, I'm not married...I made the baloney sandwiches myself.'" We have put the "baloney" in the Chaplain Corps, we can take it out.

CAPT Arnold Resnicoff, the former United States European Command (USEUCOM) Chaplain, challenged the conference participants with a provoking strategic view of ethical consideration. He narrowed our ethical responsibility to this: where there is no humanity, you are humanity. The military teaches how to kill and destroy. Chaplains are there to help those in uniform to never get to the point of liking it. Part of the job as a chaplain is to make everyone in the military uncomfortable, including ourselves.

For example, the "zero-defect" concept is an industrial term having to do with parts and machines. Yet, the military has too often applied the concept to people. We as chaplains can remind the military system of the beauty of humanity that we can grow and change. People are not parts to be discarded or fixed.

*(continued on page 8)*

## Senior Enlisted Forum

As part of SLC 2000 thirty of our senior Religious Program Specialists met to discuss religious ministry support and issues regarding the rating. Agenda items included:

**RP MANUAL:** The current manuals have not been updated since 1986. Chief Thompson of NETPDTC and the Forum agreed on the following:

- Chapter 1      Mission of the RP
- Chapter 2      Religious Faith Group Support
- Chapter 3      Funerals and Weddings
- Chapter 4      Religious Offering Fund
- Chapter 5      Library/Multi-Media Resource Center
- Chapter 6      Office and Facilities Management
- Chapter 7      Administrative
- Chapter 8      Supply and Logistics

A finished product is scheduled for delivery by January 2001.

**RP Area Training:** Chief Alberque of CNET, will link lesson plans for fleet usage under the CNET Training page. These lessons are based on the Bibliography for Advancement.

**Chief of Chaplains Fleet “A” School Program:** The Chief has committed \$5000 for five sailors to attend RP “A” School in Meridian, MS. Expect a Focus announcing the program with forms to be filled out and submitted to your Claimant RP.

**Selection Board Membership:** For the first time in 21 years, First Class, Chief and Senior Chief Petty Officers serving in the RP rating may serve in an administrative capacity as recorders for enlisted selection boards. It requires you to be TAD to the selection board for six weeks in Millington, Tennessee. Contact your claimant RP for more information.

**CREST:** The only course of instruction to provide RMT (Religious Ministry Team) Training to Chaplains and RPs going to FMF units, SEABEES and Fleet Hospitals. Articles and pictures of students in the field can be found on the Field Medical Service School homepage at [www.lejeune.usmc.mil/fmss](http://www.lejeune.usmc.mil/fmss).

**PDTcs and PDTWs:** RP attendance will depend upon the topic and recommendation of regional, force, or fleet RP with approval from their Chaplain.

**21-Year History of the RP Rating:** Surprisingly, there is no documentation of the 21-year history of the RP Rating. Senior Chief Terry of the Mid-Atlantic Region has formed a “History Committee” and is looking for volunteers to assist with the ~~delivery of a finished product by the 25~~ anniversary.

**Senior Enlisted Protocol:** For Fleet, Force and Regional RPs on flag staffs. Every consideration should be given for their arrival to your command, such as bios on the command master chief, an agenda, read-aheads for meetings, VIP quarters, marquee welcoming to command. Understandably, if the visit is to a local command where the headquarters is located, it is not expected.

**RP Mission Statement:** The forum developed the following “Mission Statement” to be placed just inside the cover of the RP Manual: “To provide support as a member of the religious ministry team by managing command religious programs for all sea service personnel and their families”. This is a working suggestion from the Forum. If you can add value to this mission statement, please forward your working suggestion to your claimant RP.

The following were topics for general discussion with no conclusion:

- Coding all RP Billets 2401
- Occupational Standards Review
- Navy Task Training Requirements
- RPC billet at EPMAC
- RP1 flag writer billet



*RPCMs Darnell and Holdren discussing rating issues at SLC 2000.*

## *Within the Chaplain Corps Family*



Chaplain Steve Gragg congratulates his son, Chaplain Candidate Nathan Gragg after administering the oath of office. Chaplain Candidate Gragg attended the CCPO Basic Course in Newport, RI summer of 1999. Having just completed his second year at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, SC, Nathan and his wife, Joanna, leave in August 2000 for a year of internship in Texas before returning for his last year of seminary.

## IN MEMORIAM

***Rita Holloway***, mother of LCDR David L. Holloway,  
CHC, USN USS HARRY S TRUMAN (CVN-75) Box  
0007 FPO AE 09524-0007

***CAPT Homer Eugene "Gene" Keen***, CHC USN (ret)

***Shalom Vipor***, father-in-law of LCDR Sanford H.  
Shudnow, CHC, USN, father of Frida Shudnow,  
11516 Monticello Ave Silver Spring MD 20902

## ACHIEVEMENTS

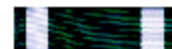
### Meritorious Service Medal



*CDR Shelia Robertson, CHC, USN*  
USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN-69)

*RPCS (AW/FMF) Dwayne R. Thompson, USN*  
MARFORLANT

### Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal



*CDR Stephen W. Seelig, CHC, USNR*  
23D Marines

*LT Richard A. Bonnette, CHC, USNR*  
USS CAMDEN (AOE-2)

**Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal (cont.)**

*LT Robert A. Church, CHC, USNR*  
USS RAINIER (AOE-7)

*LT Alfonso J. Concha, CHC, USNR*  
Naval Hospital Okinawa, Japan

*RP1 (SW/FMF) Cesar Medina*  
MCAS Miramar

*RP1 (FMF) Craig R. Tilley, USN*  
Naval Hospital Bremerton, WA

*RP2 Jorge A. Proctor, USN*  
Naval Station Rota, Spain

**Coast Guard Commendation Medal**



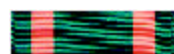
*LCDR Walt East, CHC, USN*  
USCG Training Center Yorktown, VA

**Army Commendation Medal**



*LT William P. Neis*  
USCG Greater Antilles Section

**Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal**



*LT Darrell Wesley, CHC, USNR*  
SUBASE New London

*RP2 (SW/FMF) Kenneth E. Seymour*  
CSSG-1 Twentynine Palms, CA

*RP2 (FMF) Jeffrey D. Burden, USN*  
Navy Supply Corps School, Athens, GA

**Coast Guard Achievement Medal**



*LT William P. Neis*  
USCG Greater Antilles Section

**Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal**

*CDR Stephen Wayne Seelig*  
NAVAIRRES San Diego

*RP1 (SW/FMF) Alan Dagg*  
SUBASE New London

**Fleet Marine Force Ribbon**

*RP2 (SW/FMF) Kenneth E. Seymo*  
CSSG-1 Twentynine Palms, CA

**Letter of Commendation**

*RP1 (SW)Edward Snyder, USN*  
COMSIXTHFLT

*RP3 Corey Austin, USN*  
USS BATAAN (LHD-5)

**Enlisted Surface Warfare**

*RPCS (SW/FMF) Lori Pasternack, USN*  
USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN-69)

*RPC (SW/AW/FMF) Thomas K. McComas, USN*  
USS BATAAN (LHD-5)

*RP1 (SW/FMF) Richard A. Allgood*  
USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC/JCC-20)

*RP2 Norman, Brown, Jr, USN*  
USS SHILOH (CG-67)

**Enlisted Aviation Warfare**

*RPC (SW/AW/FMF) Thomas K. McComas, USN*  
USS BATAAN (LHD-5)

**Sailor of the Quarter**

*RP1 (SW)Edward Snyder, USN*  
COMSIXTHFLT

*RP2 (FMF) Jeffrey D. Burden, USN*  
Navy Supply Corps School, Athens, GA

**NAACP President Award  
5th Annual Community Heroes Award**

*LCDR Andrew Calhoun, CHC, USN*  
USMC Camp Butler, Okinawa

*Our Watch (con't from page 4)*

We can be role models, exemplifying a better world as we think about the rights of others and our own responsibility in life, rather than the other way around. Military leaders have their self-righteous and seek to break through bickering and bar-power to push the nuclear button, to keep people away from their families, and put a person in jail for disobedience. The misuse of power can be a potent temptation. As chaplains we must use our power of influence in relation to our ethical responsibility.

I left the conference with a deeper understanding of the issues in our Chaplain Corps/RP team and a stronger sense of hope. As I said before, the time for healing is now. Any urge to interrupt God's ministry by building artificial barriers between people or to seek power over others is counter-productive and violates the Golden Rule. We must take care of each other in the chaplain and RP communities. As Benjamin Disraeli proposed, "The secret of success is constancy to purpose." We should not ignore problems in our Corps, but the emphasis must first be remembering our higher purpose as representatives of God and to serve those in our charge. We can eliminate the "baloney" in the Chaplain Corps if we remember our purpose and keep our eye single to the most obvious truth – *This is God's Corps.*

The Navy Chaplain Corps has a noble past, productive present and a promising future. Chaplain Black brought to us the remembrance of the sixteen Navy Chaplains killed in action and the thousands who have sacrificed and contributed so much throughout our history. Chaplains ended the practice of flogging in the Navy. Chaplains were powerful preachers and teachers of moral truth. They were effective teachers for commanders and ship's company. Chaplains have stood in defense of constitutional rights in the Sea Services. Our Corps promoted the first African-American Navy captain. But we have much yet to do in God's service. God has not brought us this far to fail. There is nothing to fear. God will not leave this Corps. We need to carry on the legacy of the Corps into the 21st Century. *This is our watch.*

To chart our course into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, we as a Corps must march smartly together. We must break through barriers and work together as true Religious Ministry Teams.

I respectfully offer the following items for consideration. We can overcome problems and serve more effectively as we:

1. Consecrate and dedicate ourselves individually and our Corps to God.
2. Focus on ministry. As servant leaders, we must seek first to fulfill the myriad needs of the people we are charged to serve.
3. Pray for our nation, our leaders, the Religious Ministry Teams, and those we serve.
4. Listen to God's direction in response to our prayers. Remember: God is in charge.

5. Listen empathetically to each other, respecting the differences of faith groups and opinions. Avoid being paternalistic and seek to break through bickering and bar-power to push the nuclear button, to keep people away from their families, and put a person in jail for disobedience.

6. Promote healing by celebrating our diversity and treat all chaplains and RPs as brothers and sisters.

7. Go beyond ourselves and thank God for the innumerable blessings we enjoy. We are blessed to serve God, country, and those in the military. Thank the Almighty for our families and loved ones.

8. Be spiritually focused, and raise our prophetic voices boldly.

9. Serve individuals and commands as spiritual leaders and moral/ethical advisors.



*Chaplain Doug Olauson  
CO GEN GRP CHAPLAIN 1ST FSSG*

## Attention!!



We are in need of photo prints and/or 2x2" slides of chaplains/RPs in action. Please send to CRB (attn. TNC) and include photo ID data.

## Have you activated your Chaplain Corps E-mail?

The new Chaplain Corps Email System is fully functional and on-line. All chaplains and RP's (active duty and reserve) are expected to login and regularly check their email. Login instructions are found at <http://www.chaplain.navy.mil/new-email.htm> (or click the link at CRB website). Chaplains and RPs can have their email autoforwarded to another address, usually their office or home. To have your account forwarded, send an email with the name, rank and complete forwarding email address to: [email@crb.chaplain.navy.mil](mailto:email@crb.chaplain.navy.mil).

## *Thoughts on Senior Leadership Conference 2000*

By CAPT Joseph David Stinson, CHC, USNR

Staff Chaplain, Fleet Support Command-Ft Dix New Jersey



The first morning in Dallas, Chaplain Steve Linehan asked me casually if I would take some notes and make a few comments about the Conference when it was all over. I assumed he meant for me to fill out an evaluation form. Once home, I discovered I was to write an article for *The Navy Chaplain*. Senior enough, I should have known not to volunteer! My notes are random. If my thoughts seem disjointed, let me plead it is not all my fault. The conference itself was a collection of random reports and discussions on all sorts of issues.

A highlight for everyone was Chaplain Ron Hubbard's morning devotions. Hubbard, a professor at Northpark Seminary in Chicago, led us through numerous stories from the Hebrew scriptures and found excellent lessons for us in each.

CAPT Russell Gunter, Executive Director of the Armed Forces Chaplains Board briefed on the Religious Preference Code project, a plan to update the now 20-year old list of religious preferences into which the Navy divides itself. Current DoD statistics say that as of April 1999, 29% of sailors expressed no religious preference. 71% did express a preference and of that group: 32% are Roman Catholic, 48% Protestant, 18% generic "Christian," 0.41% Muslim, and 0.34% Jewish.

CDR Frank Holley of the DEOMI (Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute) briefed us on a recent survey of the Chaplain Corps about discrimination and prejudice. The survey produced 32 pages of anecdotes about problems and successes in our corps. "Race," he told us, "is a problem." There is a perception among white males that they are often discriminated against in promotions. Racial minorities think the same thing for their groups. Half the women surveyed reported at least one incident of sexual discrimination during their careers. Non-liturgical Protestants also feel they are often kept from promotion and equal opportunity.

Three ethics presentations by Chaplains Bill Dillon, Charlotte Hunter and Arnold Resnicoff were among the most thought-provoking of the conference. Regrettably, the time for discussion was more limited than on any other topic discussed. Here are a few tidbits from their lectures, just to give you a taste:

- "Sometimes it is better not to act. All options carry moral consequences, even doing nothing."
- "'Not to be criminal' differs from 'how to be ethical.'"
- "Religion and warfare are more often connected today."
- "Core values are sorely needed."

- "The Chaplain's role is often to make the system of the military more 'human,' to save soldiers and sailors from ever getting to enjoy what they are trained to do."

- "We are much more interested in 'rights,' than we are in the issues of 'righteousness.' "

Dr. John Ivankovich of the Center for Naval Analysis reported on his recent brief on the Chaplain Corps to the CNO. This brief turned on the distinction between "providing chaplaincy coverage" and "ensuring access of all" to ministry. His study revealed that the way the Corps is now organized into 12 claimancies (largely unrelated to the way the rest of the Navy is organized) creates 'stovepipes' in our system. It leads, he said, to junior Chaplains feeling more responsible to senior Chaplains than to Commanding Officers. It also allows very little flexibility in detailing for new realities and needs.

Mrs. Veronica Berto of the Chief of Chaplains' Office was introduced as the real powerhouse in our system. She understands things like community end strength, gains, losses and the DoD budget. She briefed the CHC/NAVY goals for 12% of our Corps to be African American, 5% Asian/Pacific Islander and 12% Hispanic. We will soon meet the African American goals. There are no gender goals currently set.

Worth the price of admission was Chaplain Black's concluding sermon/brief, "Nothing to Fear." By the end, several of the "backbenchers" were on their feet shouting for mercy and grace. A couple of his thoughts, remembered randomly and reported to you without his rhetorical flourishes:

- If all we have in our lunch pails is bologna sandwiches, it is well to remember we put them there ourselves.
- We are in charge of our Corps, like faithful stewards. We do not need to be intimidated by the challenges. God owns the place, not us.
- Leading without followers is just another way of taking a walk by ourselves.
- Two groups fight change:
  - 1) those who lack courage—they need to hear words of faith; and,
  - 2) those who don't want change because of self interest—they need words of love.

Chaplain Holderby closed the meeting with a prayer and reminded us all to mentor the younger chaplains. "The truth shared," he said, "is power." ■

## Chief of Chaplains Endorses ChaplainCare

**ChaplainCare** is a customer-focused, *interactive* and *informational* web site developed by NAVSEA. In the next issue of TNC we will have a full article on ChaplainCare. In the meantime, here is a snap shot of some of its features along with a tear-off poster on the following page:

**ACCESS ADDRESS:** [www.ChaplainCare.navy.mil](http://www.ChaplainCare.navy.mil) or [www.AnchorDesk.navy.mil](http://www.AnchorDesk.navy.mil)

### **INTERACTIVE CHOICES:**

**ASK A QUESTION OR RECEIVE INFORMATION** - Leads to a pre-addressed email where you can receive a response within 24 hours.

**TALK TO A CHAPLAIN** - Leads you to a toll free number to the Navy's Integrated Call Center, Norfolk, VA (1-877-41-TOUCH or OCONUS DSN: 510-42-TOUCH) where you will be connected to a Chaplain-on-Call

**PROVIDE US FEEDBACK ABOUT THIS SITE** - Leads to a pre-addressed email where you can share your thoughts on how we can improve the ChaplainCare site.

### **INFORMATIONAL CHOICES:**

#### **DEVOTIONS:**

**Top:** Links to 18 Daily Devotions (including one in Spanish)

**Bottom:** Over 120 Devotions written by Navy Chaplains

**PERSONAL PRAYER:** 78 prayers designed to address various feeling states and life occasions

**SELF-HELP:** Information about various relationship and life issues.

#### **ABOUT VARIOUS FAITHS:**

**Top:** Synopsis of 22 religions.

**Bottom:** Links to web sites on over 400 other faith groups

Click on "Christianity" and you will open to another page:

**Top:** A synopsis of 26 faith groups, beliefs and practices (most written by the denominations themselves)

**Bottom:** Links to the official web sites of 26 faith groups

**Far Bottom:** Links to over 400 other faith groups

**WEDDINGS:** Frequently asked questions about Navy weddings.

**Bottom:** link to a wedding web site with information about marriage licenses, wedding services, wedding etiquette, and a variety of other topics.

#### **CREDO CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE**

Web sites and schedules for all CREDO Centers

**COMMUNITY SERVICES PROJECTS:** Information about Project Good Neighbor and other Navy Flagship community service projects

#### **QUALITY OF LIFE MALL**

Link to the official web site of CNO's LIFELines

#### **NAVY-MARINE CORPS RELIEF**

Link to the official web site of NMCRS

#### **AMERICAN RED CROSS**

Link to the official web site of ARC

**ChaplainCare Team:** CAPT Steve Epperson, CAPT Jane Vieira, CDR Johnny Poole, CDR Gerry Blackburn, LCDR Mike Smith, RPCM Isaac Matthews, RPCS Steve Jackson and the staff of NAVSEALOGCOM.



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# ChaplainCare



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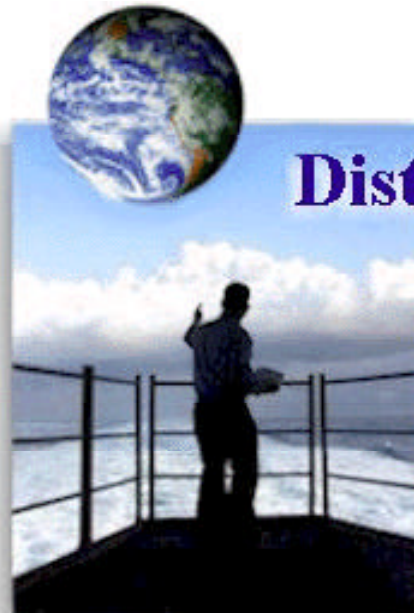
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## Anchor Desk

*I want to ...*

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<http://www.chaplaincare.navy.mil/index.htm>

## CRB Recommendations

**Islam in America: Columbia Contemporary American Religion Series**, by Jane I. Smith. Columbia University Press. 251 pages, 1999. \$35.00

Jane Smith is professor of Islamic Studies at Hartford Seminary in Connecticut. She has authored/co-authored two books on Islamic affairs. Her latest work is an exquisite look at Islam in America and delves into the effect Islam is having on American society as well as how this nation's ideals are molded into Islamic thought. The first three chapters deal with a foundation of the Islamic faith for the uninitiated and how Islam came to America. An entire chapter is dedicated to the influence and history of Islam in the African-American community from little known imams who influenced Nation of Islam founder Elijah Muhammed to more mod-



ern personalities like Louis Farrakhan. The author slowly goes through the different sects of Muslims in the United States with a wonderful explanation as to their unique dogma and faith values. I particularly enjoyed the chapter on the growing role of Muslim women in the communities of North America and the brief mention of both the Army and Navy chaplains. A picture of Navy LTJG Abd-al-Muta Ali Noel Jr. is featured on page 160. Islam in America is an excellent read and highly recommended for all Navy Chaplains wishing to understand the religion. Many non-Muslim chaplains come across Muslims in uniform and are expected to accommodate their religious practice. I have been proud to advise many commands on the religion and this book ranks high for those wanting to develop a reading list on Islam.

*Reviewed by LT Youssef H. Aboul-Enein, MSC, USN*

### Please Note:

**As of 17 August, 2000 the Chaplain Resource Branch (formerly known as the Chaplain Resource Board) became a part of the 977 shop in the Office of the Chief of Chaplains. We will continue to use the acronym CRB. CDR Shelia Robertson, CHC, USN is the Branch Head.**

# The Navy Chaplain

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<a href="http://www.chaplain.navy.mil">http://www.chaplain.navy.mil</a>	

